



## *The President's Daily Brief*

*2 February 1973*

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

2 February 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Fighting near Quang Tri has subsided and military action elsewhere in Vietnam remains light. [REDACTED]

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Hanoi has told the Viet Cong they are going to be much more on their own. (Page 1)

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// Reports on the first session of the Laotian peace talks suggest that the two sides are moving toward agreement on an early cease-fire. (Page 3) At the same time, Hanoi is preparing to send record quantities of supplies to northern Laos in the next three weeks. (Page 4)

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Both Sihanouk and President Lon Nol have taken new steps to end the fighting in Cambodia. (Page 5)

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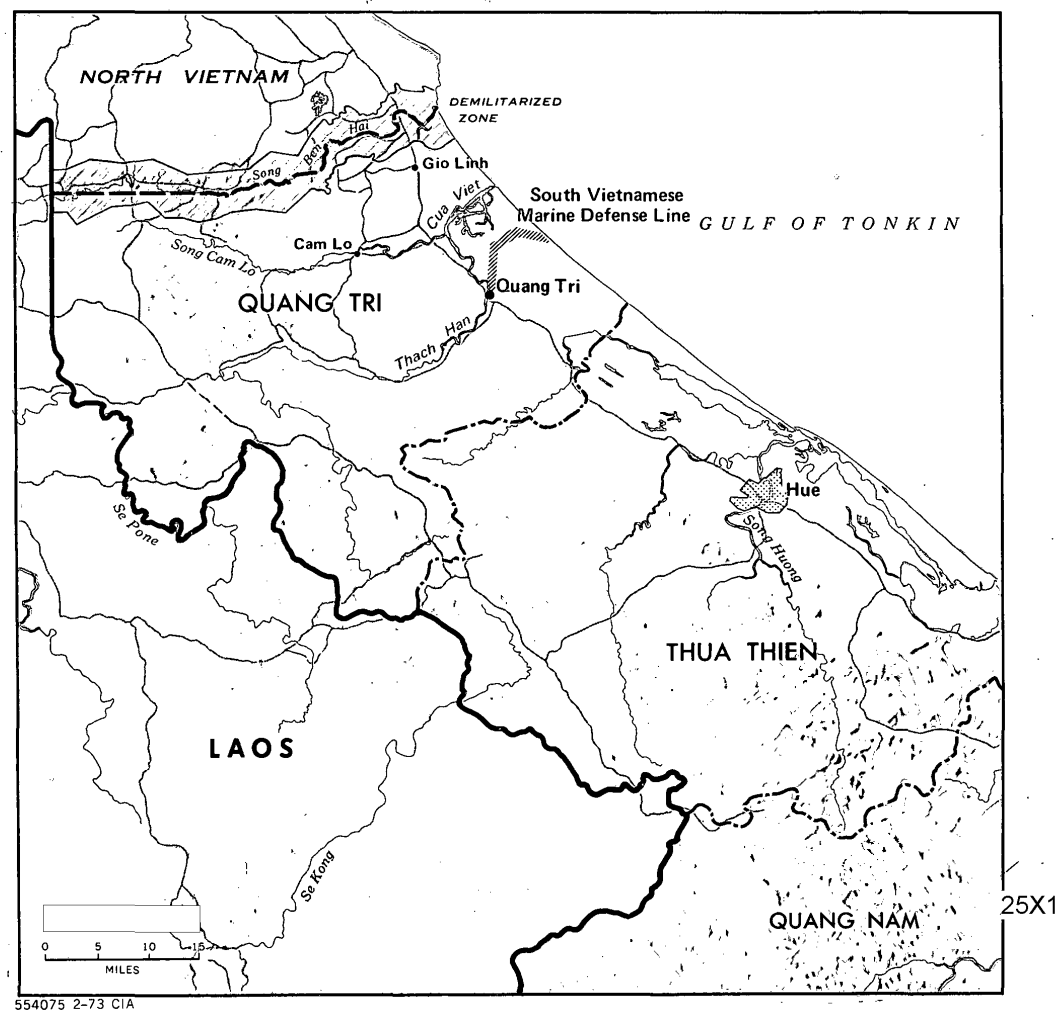
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Japan [REDACTED]  
(Page 6)

Morocco's King Hassan is said to be pleased with his recent talks with Ambassador Murphy, but the King intends to send emissaries to probe Washington's intentions in supporting his country. (Page 7)

In Uruguay, military leaders are developing contingency plans to keep up their campaign against the Tupamaro terrorists even if Congress fails to renew the suspension of constitutional guarantees. (Page 8)

The Chinese are building a new spur in their road-net in northwestern Laos. (Page 9)

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VIETNAM

Most of the fighting on the Quang Tri battle-front has subsided and military action elsewhere remains light. South Vietnamese Marines, who were driven back from their forward positions on the south bank of the Cua Viet River, have regrouped along previous defensive lines well south of the river. Airborne units have apparently contained the North Vietnamese in their newly established beachhead on the east bank of the Thach Han River west of Quang Tri City.

*The over-all Communist intention in the attacks appears to have been primarily to restore the basic pre-cease-fire lines of control. An intercepted Communist message of 30 January states that "in a short time we destroyed the enemy's force and protected the liberated areas."*

\* \* \*

[REDACTED]  
Hanoi has told the Viet Cong they are going to be much more on their own. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Hanoi's public statements indicating that "socialist construction" at home will now be North Vietnam's chief concern. [REDACTED]

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(continued)

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[redacted] the Viet  
Cong are having trouble deciding what to do about  
the neutralists, whom the Communists have consist-  
ently demanded be included in any administration.

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[redacted]  
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## LAOS

Initial reporting on the first session of the peace talks in Vientiane on Wednesday suggests that the two sides are beginning to move toward an agreement. According to a highly sensitive diplomatic source, it was agreed that a cease-fire should provide for an end of bombing and the withdrawal of "all foreign forces" without specifically identifying their nationalities. A joint military subcommittee will be found to work out the specific modalities of a cease-fire agreement. The negotiators reportedly did not discuss whether the cease-fire would leave the forces in place or provide for a regrouping as the government had previously suggested.

The two sides came to no final decisions on political matters. The Communist demand for a Political Consultative Council to oversee implementation of a political settlement was discussed but left open. The Communists agreed to the formation of a new tripartite coalition government along the lines established by the 1961-62 agreements. They did suggest, however, that such a government be expanded--an apparent effort to find seats for their "Patriotic Neutralist" allies.

*This account of the first private session suggests that agreement on a cease-fire and at least the outlines of a political settlement can be reached in short order. Prime Minister Souvanna returned to Vientiane yesterday from his trip to New Delhi and Bangkok and can be expected to push for further progress at the next private meeting scheduled for today.*

Another sensitive diplomatic source reports that Phoumi Vongvichit, the high-ranking "special adviser" to the Lao Communist team, will return to Vientiane from Sam Neua tomorrow.

*Presumably Phoumi intends to enter into direct discussions with Souvanna. In late October when Phoumi was last in Vientiane he met once with Souvanna.*

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LAOS

North Vietnam is planning to send record quantities of supplies to northern Laos during the next three weeks. According to an intercepted North Vietnamese message of 1 February, the Communists intend to ship some 6,500 tons of cargo westward on Route 7 from Vinh by 22 February.

*These shipments would be the largest ever sent to this area, and would raise to almost 10,000 tons the amount sent so far during the current dry season. During all of last year's dry season only 5,800 tons were detected moving to northern Laos.*

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CAMBODIA

In a continuation of his "re-examination" of the Cambodian situation, Sihanouk proposed on 31 January that Khmer insurgent forces in Cambodia "lower the tone" of their military operations and "not launch offensive actions." In talking with French journalists in Hanoi, Sihanouk emphasized that his approach had the "total support" of both China and North Vietnam. Its purpose, he said, was to "avoid inconveniencing Cambodia's neighbors who must observe the cease-fire." Sihanouk cautioned that this proposal had not yet been agreed to by insurgent leaders who would have the "last word."

*If Hanoi is indeed supporting Sihanouk's proposal, the insurgents surely will fall in line and reciprocate Phnom Penh's current stand-down in offensive operations. Military activity is now at a low level throughout Cambodia, and the insurgents may already have been preparing for a cease-fire in advance of Sihanouk's proposal. In the past few days their propaganda has omitted threats of continued fighting.*

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Lon Nol was expected to meet In Tam yesterday to make a more detailed review of the proposal.

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*Although both Sihanouk and Lon Nol have taken steps toward ending the fighting, prospects for a quick settlement still appear dim. Each of the leaders insists that he will not treat with the other and that his opponent be excluded from any role in Cambodia.*

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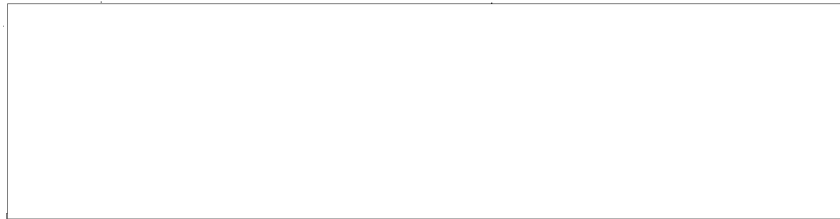
JAPAN



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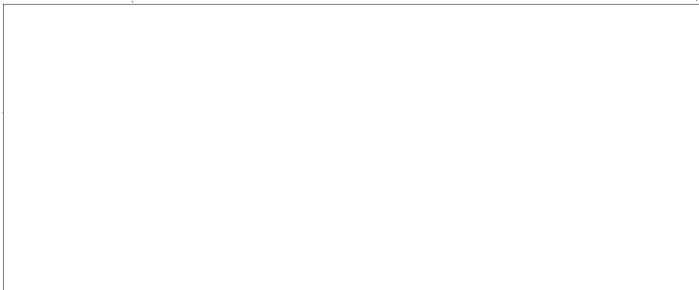
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MOROCCO

King Hassan is very pleased with the outcome of his talks with Ambassador Robert Murphy on 29 January. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Hassan is now convinced that President Nixon is sincerely concerned and interested in Morocco and its monarchy. The King nonetheless intends to send special emissaries to Washington later this month in an attempt to find out how closely the US is prepared to commit itself toward his country.

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Hassan [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] evidently wants a firm commitment of US support before he begins negotiating on the future of the Kenitra base and other issues outstanding with the US. His recent overtures toward Moscow seem to have been timed for their effect on the US.

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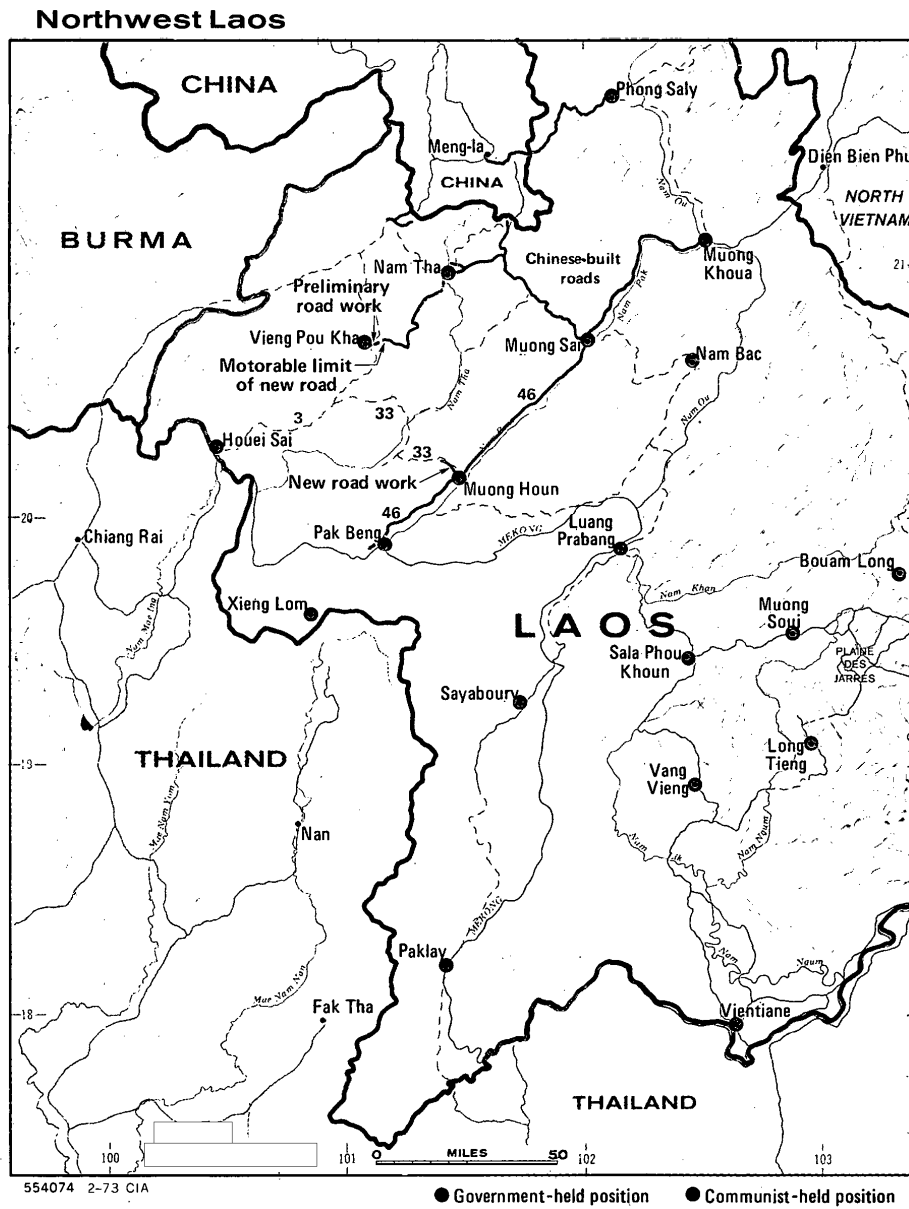
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## URUGUAY

Armed services leaders are developing plans to use military judges to sign arrest and search warrants if Congress fails to renew the suspension of constitutional guarantees beyond 15 February. They will argue that constitutional restrictions imposed on civil judges would make it impossible to continue the highly successful military campaign against the Tupamaro terrorists.

*The plan would be sure to provoke stiff opposition from civilian politicians, who are alarmed over the growing military role in government and the military's continuing drive to stamp out corruption in civil government agencies. A congressional vote to renew the suspension of guarantees would, of course, buttress the military's continued political role in Uruguay even though it would obviate the need for the military plan now under consideration.*

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## NOTES

China-Laos: Chinese road building is now advancing northwest from Muong Houn. This new spur, measuring only about seven miles so far, appears directed toward Vieng Pou Kha on Route 3 which in turn is to be linked by road to Nam Tha to the north-east. Bangkok, which is concerned that construction will proceed to the Thai border, will demonstrate the same sensitivity to this new development that it has shown to previous road building in the area.

Force Reduction Talks: After an unstructured initial session, the delegations in Vienna are trying through informal contacts to work out procedures so that a formal plenary session can be held early next week. If the Romanian and Bulgarian delegations continue to insist on being full and equal participants, the NATO "flank" countries--Norway, Denmark, Italy, Greece, and Turkey--will renew their campaign for full status. Soviet delegation members predict, however, that the Romanians will back off.

West Germany: A record trade surplus of more than \$8 billion was achieved last year despite the revaluation of the mark in December 1971. A ten percent increase in exports reflected accelerating economic expansion in Germany's major trading partners as well as signs that German export prices were becoming increasingly competitive toward the end of the year. German officials have pointed out that the record surplus was largely offset by higher German tourist expenditures and foreign worker remittances, thus ruling out any possibility of another revaluation.

Cyprus: President Makarios' supporters plan to hold an island-wide demonstration on 8 February, the day for nominations for the presidential elections on 18 February. If Makarios is the only nominee, as they expect, no actual voting will be necessary, but the demonstration will give Makarios a chance to show the extent of his popular following. Advocates of union with Greece who favor his arch-rival Grivas have denounced the decision to hold the rally and warned of possible incidents. Bombings and provocations against the police have plagued Cyprus during the past few weeks, but there is little sign that Grivas' forces are up to a showdown at this time.

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